

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06 CAB-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01

FAA-00 L-02 H-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /055 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3735

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PE

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - SOTO TELLS PRESS THAT BRANIFF ACCEPTS RESTRICTIVE OPERATING PERMIT

REF: LIMA 0831

1. AEROPERU PRESIDENT, GENERAL (R) CARLOS SOTO VERA, HELD PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 30. GIST OF HIS REMARKS WAS THAT BRANIFF HAD FINALLY ACCEPTED GOP CIVAIR POLICY AND HAD AGREED TO OPERATE UNDER NEW, RESTRICTIVE PERMIT, WHICH WOULD ACHIEVE GOAL OF PARITY BETWEEN AEROPERU AND BRANIFF. STORY WAS CARRIED ON FRONT PAGE OF ALL LIMA DAILIES UNDER SUCH HEADLINES AS "BRANIFF'S ITINERARY REDUCED FROM 34 TO 16 FLIGHTS" (LA PRENSA); "BRANIFF PUNCTURED, REDUCES ITS FLIGHTS - PERUVIAN POSITION TRIUMPHS" (EXPRESL); "BRANIFF PROBLEM RESOLVED ON TERMS DEMANDED BY PERU" (COMERCIO); AEROPERU AND BRANIFF: EQUAL TO EQUAL" (LA CRONICA); AND "PERU TRIUMPHS OVER BRANIFF" (CORREO). REPORT CARRIED BY EXPRESO APPEARS TO BE MOST REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESS ACCOUNTS AND IS AS FOLLOWS:

"THE NORTH AMERICAN AIRLINE, BRANIFF INTERNATIONAL, HAS UNDERSTOOD PERU'S SOVEREIGN POSITION AND HAS AGREED TO REDUCE ITS WEEKLY FREQUENCIES TO LIMA FROM 34 TO 15. AT THE SAME TIME, THE STATE AIRLINE (AEROPERU) HAS BEEN GRANTED ENTRY TO THE COUNTRY TO

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THE NORTH THE SAME NUMBER OF TIMES AS BRANIFF. THE NATIONAL

AIRLINE WILL BE ABLE TO FLY THESE FREQUENCIES AS SOON AS ITS FLEET EXPANDS. GENERAL SOTO INFORMED THE PRESS OF THE FOREGOING ON HIS RETURN FROM THE UNITED STATES. AS WILL BE RECALLED, SOTO WENT TO THE UNITED STATES FOR THE PURPOSE OF SETTING FORTH THE NEW SITUATION PROPOSED AND ADOPTED BY PERU WITH RESPECT TO RIGHTS IN ITS AIR SPACE.

"COMMENTING ON THE RESULTS OF HIS EXPOSITION, SOTO VERA SAID, 'WE THINK IT IS A JUST AND EQUITABLE SOLUTION FOR BOTH COUNTRIES. THE POLICY OF THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT EXTENDS TO THE DEFENSE OF AIR TRAFFIC (RIGHTS), AND WE WILL DEFEND THAT POSITION BY EVERY MEANS.' HE SAID THAT WHAT AEROPERU AND PERU WANT IN GENERAL ARE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO AIRLINES, "ALWAYS WITHIN A CRITERIA OF EQUITY AND JUSTICE. WE DON'T WANT OUR RELATIONS TO BE SIMPLY AGREEABLE." (NOTE: THIS IS AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO SOUTH'S STATEMENT TO THE PRESS TWO DAYS BEFORE, REPORTED SEPTTEL.)

'SOTO SAID THAT LACK OF EQUIPMENT PREVENTED AEROPERU FROM TAKING FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, BY THE END OF APRIL, AEROPERU WILL EXPAND ITS SERVICES TO NEW YORK. SIX FLIGHT PERWEEK WILL BE MADE TO THAT CITY. BY THE END OF OCTOBER, AEROPERU'S OPERATIONS WILL BE FURTHER EXPANDED WITH THREE FLIGHTS PER WEEK TO LOS ANGELES, THUS TOGETHER WITH THE SIX (SIC) FLIGHTS NOW BEING MADE TO MIAMI, ACHIEVING THE LEVEL OF FIFTEEN FLIGHTS.

"THE PRESS WAS ALSO INFORMED THAT ALTHOUGH THE PROPOSAL WAS CONSIDERED ACCEPTABLE BY THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT, IT STILL HAS TO BE FINALIZED AT THE LEVEL OF THE GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES. THUS, IT WAS SAID, THE PROPOSAL THAT THE TWO AIRLINES SUSPEND THEIR FLIGHTS IS STILL UNDER STUDY BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. (NOTE: THE PRECEDING SENTENCE APPEARED IN NO OTHER NEWSPAPER.) MEANWHILE, SOTO AFFIRMED, BRANIFF WILL CONTINUE FLYING TO PERU IN FULL ACCEPTANCE OF THE NEW PROVISIONS OF THE ITINERARY IMPOSED BY PERU. SOTO VERA ADDED THAT HE IS CONVINCED THAT THE U.S. AERONAUTICAL AUTHORITIES WILL ACCEPT THE PERUVIAN PROPOSITION "BECAUSE IT IS JUST", HE SAID.

"HE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT IN ACCORD WITH ESTABLISHED NORMS, WHILE BRANIFF CAN ONLY PICK UP PASSENGERS IN LIMA ON ITS REGULARLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SCHEDULED FLIGHTS, THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE SAID COMPANY OTHERWISE CEASES TO BE THE BENEFICIARY OF THE PROVISIONS OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS.

"SOTO VERA ALSO SAID THAT THE PERUVIAN AIRLINE IS THINKING OF EXPANDING SERVICE TO EUROPE IN 1977. THE MINISTRY OF AIR, WITH THIS PROSPECT IN VIEW, IS EXAMINING THE AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE ON THE WORLD MARKET TO CHOSE THOSE WHICH MAY LATER BE INCLUDED IN PERU'S

AIR FLEET."

2. COMMENT: WHAT THE FOREGOING MEANS IN PRACTICE IS THAT BRANIFF WILL FLY ONLY FIFTEEN FLIGHTS NORTH OF LIMA WITH TRAFFIC RIGHTS SOUTH OF LIMA, BRANIFF WILL FLY ONE FLIGHT WITH TRAFFIC RIGHTS AND EIGHT FLIGHTS WITHOUT. BRANIFF HAD HOPED TO BE ABLE TO FLY IN EXCESS OF FIFTEEN FLIGHTS NORTH OF LIMA WITH TRAFFIC RIGHTS TO INTERMEDIATE DESTINATIONS SHORT OF THE U.S. (SEE PARA 1.C. REFTL) HOWEVER, AFTER AGREEING YESTERDAY (JAN. 30) TO THIS CONCEPT, DGTA BERCKEMEYER REVERSED HIMSELF TODAY (JAN. 31). BRANIFF HAD ALSO HOPED RESTRICTIONS WOULD NOT APPLY TO STOP-OVER TRAFFIC ON 24 HOURS OR LESS ON BOTH A BRANIFF-TO-BRANIFF AND INTERLINE

BASIS, BUT BERCKEMEYER HAS NOW DECIDED TO AGREE ONLY TO FORMER. (PERUVIANS ALSO SOUGHT TO INJECT FURTHER LAST MINUTE COMPLICATION. BERCKEMEYER ALSO STATED THAT GOP MIGHT DECIDE NOT TO ALLOW BRANIFF TO FLY AT ALL BECAUSE OF LATE FILING OF SCHEDULE HOWEVER, BY LATE AFTERNOON JAN. 31, DEL SOLAR HAD PERSUADED DGTA TO PERMIT BRANIFF TO FLY WITH FURTHER RESTRICTIONS AS NOTED ABOVE.)

4. BRANIFF INFORMS US THAT SERIOUS SHORTAGE OF SPACE HAS RESULTED ON FLIGHTS SOUTH OF LIMA. BETWEEN FEBRUARY 1 AND FEBRUARY 4, BRANIFF HAS 235 PASSENGERS BOOKED FOR BRAZILIAN DESTINATIONS FOR WHICH IT CANNOT FIND SPACE ON ANY OTHER AIRLINE. SOUTH TO ARGENTINA AND CHILE,

135 PASSENGERS ARE WAITLISTED, WITH PROSPECT OF ONLY 13 SEATS BECOMING AVAILABLE.
DEAN

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